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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT
IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

for

1958

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	112,315 acres
Number of Parishes	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Rateable Value 1/4/58	..	..	..	..	..	..	£215,608
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/59	..	..	..	..	..	..	£886 5s. 10d.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,671
Estimated mid-year Home Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,460
Census Population 1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,522

The district, which is agricultural in character, extends from the parish of Gamlingay in the West to Carlton parish in the East, a distance of some 30 miles, and has a common boundary with parts of the counties of Huntingdon, Bedford, Hertford, Essex and Suffolk.

It is favourable to arable farming which varies with the location, from the market gardening district of the lower greensand outcrop in the North West to the chalk marls round Melbourn and Meldreth which supports fruit growing, to corn and sugar beet area of the chalk hills to the South and East.

Industries in the area are mostly connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture. There are exceptions however; Sawston has industries of a divergent nature and comparatively large numbers of workers are employed in leather and paper manufacture. There is every indication that this parish will become urbanised as fresh industries are established.

Birth Rate	18.0
(Corrected)	20.2
Death Rate	11.4
(Corrected)	9.3
Infant Mortality Rate	19.5

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor C. Hagger

Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. Pepper

Councillors:

Andrews, H. B.	May, S. W. H.
Barnes, A.	Milner, J. G. (Deceased 13th May)
Binney, R. C. C. J.	Morley, E. W.
Bowen, Mrs. G.	Murfitt, F. W., J.P.
Bowers, C. H.	Nield, R. H.
Bullman, E. W., J.P.	Noble, J. W.
Campkin, Miss N. I. (to April)	Parkinson, Mrs. G. B.
Chambers, F.	Randall, P., J.P.
Chamberlain, J. J.	Rogers, Mrs. H.
Dyball, E. F.	Saggers, A. C.
Fordham, G. R. B., J.P.	Shears, A. G. (to July)
Gray, Miss L. M.	Taylor, S. A., J.P.
Greenwood, C. O.	Thompson, D. W.
Horsford, F. W.	Vinter, Mrs. M. M. K.
Jackson, R. C.	Webb, J. D.
Lay, J. H., M.B.E., M.C.	Wiseman, E. J.
Malthouse, H. F.	

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

P. A. Tyser, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

P. Cocks, M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Allison, A.R.S.H. (Resigned 31.12.58)

Clerk:

Miss R. J. Pitches.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 22/58 dated 9th December, 1958, and is the last I shall be writing for you as on 1st March, 1959, I take up my appointment as County Medical Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council. My successor, Dr. J. Drummond, takes up his appointment on 1st April and although he will be presenting this report the substance of it is of my own devising.

Vital Statistics

There has been a further increase in the population from 28,140 to 28,460. The birth rate has remained unchanged but there has been a slight increase in the death rate from 8.8 to 9.3 deaths per thousand population. A slight fall has occurred in the infant mortality rate and the well known difference between the illegitimate and legitimate infant mortality rate is illustrated in the new calculations made this year.

The passing of the Local Government Act 1958 and the setting up of the Local Government Commission to review areas of local government in England and Wales once again raises the question of the extent of the boundaries of various authorities. No doubt 1959 will be a year of considerable polemic. Whatever may be the motives or considerations of varying authorities it should be kept well in mind that the basis of local government in this county stems from a need to provide areas for health administration. There is no higher law than the health of the people and any alterations in areas should be in the main towards enabling more efficient and adequate services to be run for the benefit of the community.

Infectious Disease

With regard to infectious diseases there is nothing warranting special note; certain comments are made in the appropriate section of the report.

Sanitary Circumstances

The improvement of food hygiene in the district continues to make steady progress. It is, however, irritating to shopkeepers who are strictly adhering to the law to see done by their customers those things they are forbidden to do; smoking over open food is a good example of bad customer-manners.

It will be seen that twenty-seven families are still living in ex-service huts. Some of these families present special problems but no matter what the difficulties may be I am quite certain that no rehabilitation can possibly take place in this outworn type of housing. It must be hoped that the ensuing year will see the end of families living in this demoralising type of accommodation.

The fact that plans are now afoot for the building of bungalows for the elderly, and in particular that two units are to be constructed which will incorporate accommodation for a Warden, is welcomed. There is a great need for accommodation specially suited for the needs of the elderly in the community.

The year has seen the virtual completion of the Council's comprehensive water scheme and only the parish of Babraham is now without a piped water supply. During the year various meetings have taken place with regard to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Circular 52/56 on the regrouping of water undertakings. The Council has felt that over the years they have built up the provision of a comprehensive and satisfactory public supply and they think that they should be allowed to continue to manage both the production and supply of this amenity.

Stage one of the Gamlingay sewerage scheme is nearly complete and it is hoped that the Council will be allowed to continue with stage two.

During the year an enquiry was held into the Meldreth sewerage scheme which follows naturally upon the sewerage of the neighbouring village of Melbourn. Certain modifications were required by the Ministry but the scheme has now been approved and tenders are being invited.

It is with regret that I am unable to report that any start has been made upon the Sawston sewerage scheme. The evils of the present system, reported upon annually for a number of years, now beggar description.

Meat Inspection

The maintenance of 100% meat inspection is causing anxiety. As will be seen from the relevant part of the report a further increase in the amount of meat inspection undertaken by the department has occurred this year; 38,634 carcases have been inspected involving 814 visits to slaughter houses. As the law stands at present there is no possibility of controlling the hours of slaughtering. Your inspectors are working weekends and most evenings in an endeavour to maintain the high standards desirable and which may be considered commonplace in the second half of the 20th century. With the best will in the world such constant incursion into a man's rightful leisure cannot be tolerated indefinitely. Relief of this burden cannot be met entirely by increasing staff although with regard to 'normal' hours of work one inspector is virtually 'lost' to meat inspection thus creating a situation whereby all the other environmental health duties in the district fall on the shoulders of two inspectors.

I have no ready solution to offer; the lowering of standards so carefully built up and maintained is to my mind unthinkable. On the other hand there is no doubt that with an amount of meat inspection which could be expected to be commensurate with the size of the authority, three inspectors would be hard pressed to get through all the necessary statutory work. In view of the fact that the amount of meat inspection is abnormally high in your district and that other important duties aimed at protecting and maintaining the public health are being given scant notice, it may well be advisable, having in mind also the welfare of the staff you employ, to appoint a further inspector.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Hoyle and his staff for their great efforts during the year to keep abreast of the work falling upon the department. Their loyalty and hard work are a fine example.

I am grateful to the Chairman and members for their continued support of the efforts of the department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

July, 1959.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

LIVE BIRTHS							Male	Female	Total
							245	247	492
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	8	21
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>258</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>513</u>

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.12)	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.2
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.4

STILL BIRTHS							Male	Female	Total
							3	7	10
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>

Rate per thousand live and still-births	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.5
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.6

DEATHS							Male	Female	Total
							185	140	325
Death rate per thousand estimated population	11.4
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.82)	9.3
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY. Deaths of Infants under one year of age

							Male	Female	Total
							4 (3)	5 (3)	9 (6)
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>4 (3)</u>	<u>6 (4)</u>	<u>10 (7)</u>

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	19.5
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	22.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	13.6
Legitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	18.3
Illegitimate Infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	47.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	4.1%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	57
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Death from whooping cough	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	9
Deaths from influenza	..	..	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
*BIRTH RATE	18.8	15.4	16.3	16.8	18.0	18.0
*DEATH RATE	11.5	12.6	11.8	12.7	11.3	11.4
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	10.0	30.5	19.8	12.8	21.7	19.5
	(5)	(13)	(9)	(6)	(11)	(10)

* The above rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

							Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	11
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—	6
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	9	21
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	11	35
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	32	77
75 and over	....	..	..	..	..	..	87	81	168
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	185	140	325

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951” provided for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

It is convenient to record here that from 1st January, 1958, your Medical Officer of Health has held an honorary consultant's appointment in social and preventive medicine at Fulbourn Hospital.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. Hoyle continues as Senior Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Cocks. Mr. Allison resigned on the 31st December, 1958, upon taking up another appointment.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water supplies, and all necessary examination in cases of infectious disease.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. The old Poor Law Institution at Linton is now shared between the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the Cambridgeshire County Council; the former having the use of eighty beds for the chronic sick, the latter 95 beds for use under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of ‘Food Poisoning’ (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include ‘carriers’ of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
Annual case incidence and deaths, 1948-58

DISEASE	YEARS											
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	TOTAL	1958
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	405	341	30	522	116	676	13	203	350	74	2,730	370
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	96	130	64	181	105	61	129	58	86	215	1,125	7
Deaths	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1958

There has been nothing remarkable in the pattern of infectious disease during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

There was an increased number of cases notified as compared with the previous year. The villages of Sawston and Duxford were particularly involved.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Whereas a small epidemic of measles was experienced, only seven cases of whooping cough were reported during the year.

DYSENTERY

Sonne dysentery was responsible for fifteen cases of illness during the year. One case of Flexner W dysentery occurred and five members of the family were infected but suffered no symptoms. Although the family had not obviously endangered themselves it is thought that the infection may have been imported in some foreign foodstuff.

FOOD POISONING

There were twenty-two cases reported during the year. Seven of these cases were probably winter vomiting syndrome; four cases were of unknown cause. Ten cases were due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* infection, five sporadic and five associated with an outbreak which occurred in the adjoining Chesterton Rural District and spilled over into this district. This was a complicated outbreak to evaluate and no definite conclusions were drawn as to the cause. A full report was submitted to the Minister of Health under covering letter dated 28th February, 1958.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1958

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Totals
Under 1 year	1	1	—	—	6	—	—	8
1 year—	1	—	—	—	16	—	—	17
2 years—	3	1	—	—	28	—	—	32
3 years—	6	—	1	—	30	1	—	38
4 years—	7	1	—	—	32	1	—	41
5—9 years	31	3	—	—	223	3	—	260
10—14 years	8	—	—	—	31	5	—	44
15—24 years	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	5
25 and over	2	1	1	—	3	3	—	10
Totals	61	7	2	—	370	15	—	455
1957 Totals	25	215	2	2	74	—	3	321

Age in years	Acute Pneumonia	Acute Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Under 5 years	1	—	—	10	—	11
5-14 years	—	—	—	7	—	7
15-44 years	6	—	—	4	—	10
45-64 years	1	—	2	1	—	4
65 and over	5	—	—	—	—	5
Totals	13	—	2	22	—	37
1957 Totals	9	3	1	6	2	21

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year ten male and three female respiratory cases and two female cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time. Eight respiratory cases and two non-respiratory cases previously notified elsewhere were transferred to the district. On balance at the end of the year there were two fewer respiratory cases and six fewer non-respiratory cases on the register.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	41	31	10	6	51	37
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	10	3	—	2	10	5
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations— (a) Transferred from other Districts (b) From Death Returns	7	1	1	1	8	2
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	14	9	7	3	21	12
6. Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year	44	26	4	6	48	32

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.58

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0—15	2	1	—	1	2	2	4
15—25	10	—	6	2	16	2	18
25—35	5	—	6	1	11	1	12
35—45	12	3	6	—	18	3	21
45—55	7	—	5	—	12	—	12
55—65	5	—	2	—	7	—	7
65 and over	3	—	1	2	4	2	6
TOTALS	44	4	26	6	70	10	80

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47

No action was needed under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

The burial of an aged person was arranged in accordance with the Act.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the year:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED										4,617
Complaints Investigated										166
General re-inspections										81
Housing:										
General Inspections										181
Re-inspections										556
Infectious Diseases:										
General Investigations										177
Number of Premises Disinfected										7
Verminous Premises and Persons:										
Premises Disinfested										4
Water Supply:										
Inspections and Investigations										86
Visits re. water sampling										146
Visits re. Chlorination tests										15
Milk and Dairies:										
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Stores										1
Milk Distributors										6
Visits re. Milk Sampling										40
Food and Drugs Act:										
Inspection of Food										27
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses										814
Bakehouses										20
Catering Establishments										43
Ice-Cream Premises										38
Other Food Premises										129
Public Houses										43
Food Conveying Vehicles										18
Shops Act Inspections										Nil
Factories Act:										
Inspections										30
Inspections re Means of Fire Escape										8
Pet Shops										1
Moveable Dwellings										73
Refuse Collection and Disposal including Depot Visits										227
Drainage										603
Sewage Disposal Including Parish Survey										382
Petroleum Storage Regulations										33
Miscellaneous Visits										134

HOUSING

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11
Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
Houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action	158

Proceedings under Housing Act 1957

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..	..	..	..	..	2
Houses demolished due to formal action:—					
(a) By owners ..	..	..	..	..	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Houses demolished as a result of informal action ..	..	..	..	..	13
Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Section 17)	..	..	..	..	3
Undertakings in respect of houses represented as unfit (Section 16)	..	..	..	..
(a) Undertakings given by owners to make fit ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Undertakings given by owners not to use for human habitation ..	..	..	..	..	10
Buildings in respect of part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 18)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Houses made fit and Closing Orders or Undertakings cancelled ..	..	..	..	..	7
New cases of overcrowding ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Overcrowding cases abated ..	..	..	..	..	3

Housing progress during the year ending 31.3.59

Houses erected by the Council	72
Houses erected by private enterprise	47
Total number of houses erected by the Council since 1945	1,653

The year under review has seen the closure or demolition of some 35 insanitary dwellings and the repair of 175 other houses.

It would seem that the Rent Act 1957 has played little part in bringing any noticeable improvement to house property although the issue of Certificates of Disrepair is no criterion as to the Act's effectiveness. Two such Certificates have been issued.

The families occupying ex forces hutments have further been reduced and the number remaining (27 families at 31.3.59) generally require special consideration as to their future. These hutments should never be thought of as taking the place of the traditional type of housing, at best they are sub-standard, at worst a rural slum.

The Council's Housing Programme for the year 1959 and 1960 has greater regard for accommodating aged persons and in these two years 82 single bedroom bungalows are proposed, in addition to two groups of 12 Old People's Bungalows with facilities for a warden. Seventy-two houses are also proposed for this period.

Applications for discretionary Improvement Grants continue to be received and the Council has made the full 50% grant of the total cost of improvements in all approved applications. The Architect has reported that up to the 31.3.59 197 dwellings had been approved for grant aid since the commencement of the scheme in 1949. Such grants amount to £50,207. This scheme forms a worthwhile adjunct to the general repair and improvement of dwellings but rural cottage property cannot often lend itself to the scope of improvements necessary to qualify for grant aid. The Standard Grant as lenvizedaged may prove effective in improving properties which by reason of layout, state of repair or structural stability are excluded from discretionary improvement grant aid.

Moveable Dwellings

The number of families occupying caravans is shown to have increased and the figure is 112 as against 73 for the preceding year. Included in this total are some 22 caravans on two licensed sites. The remaining number are individually licensed. The increase, in my opinion, is entirely due to the number of R.A.F. personnel and ancillary aerodrome workers now residing in caravans. Until recent years the R.A.F. permitted the siting of these caravans on Crown land but such appears not now to be the case, with the result that difficulty is experienced by personnel in finding convenient sites in close proximity to their place of work. Should the increase in numbers continue the establishment of permanent sites either by the Council or private persons would be advisable.

The Public Health Inspectorate has recorded 73 inspections of caravans and sites during the year and in the matter of licensing and control of caravans the department works in close liaison with the County Planning Department.

WATER SUPPLIES

The year has been one of progress in matters of water supply and it can now be said that of the 50 parishes in the district 49 have a public piped water supply.

The Council has formed a Water Sub-Committee to consider the question of the re-grouping of Water Undertakings in the light of the Circular 52/56 received from the Minister of Housing and Local Government. After due deliberation it has been resolved that the Minister be informed that the Council are satisfied that the interests of the water consumers in their district can best be served by the Council remaining an independent Water Undertaking and the aspects in favour of this were, viz: availability of water services, ability to finance major capital works, adequate and competent staff to run the Undertaking and efficient waste detection organisation, and general administration.

From the table of sample results can be seen the high standard of purity maintained in the public piped supplies. The two failures were due to local pipeline disturbances. All piped supplies are subject to chlorination at the source although all samples of raw water were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory. The public piped supplies are sampled monthly by the Public Health Inspectors as a matter of routine. Two unfit pumped supplies to Council houses were found and were rectified, in one case by sinking a new bore and in the other by connecting the dwelling to the Council's newly laid main.

The Public Health Inspectors have been engaged on sampling private supplies and advising owners on the provision of piped water supplies to their premises. In one particular instance the Council after serving a Statutory Notice, acted in default of the owner and laid on a piped water supply to a cottage, subsequently recovering the incurred expenditure.

RESULTS OF WATER SUPPLY SAMPLES

Type of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Piped Supplies	69	2
Pumps and Independent Piped Supplies to Council houses	9	2
Public Pumps	2	—
Private Supplies	13	46

REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Examination	Linton Bore Chalk Water	Sawston Bore Chalk Water	Croydon Bore Lower Greensand Water (After iron removal)	Fowlmere Dottrell Hall Bore Chalk Water	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board Lower Greensand Water (After iron removal)	Saffron Walden R.D.C. Chalk Water
Physical Characteristics ..	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value) ..	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.1
Parts per 100,000						
Chloride	1.9	2.2	2.85	2.05	7.2	1.75
Ammonia (free and saline) ..	0.0132	0.0012	0.0770	Absent	0.0678	Absent
Ammonia (albuminoid) ..	0.0004	0.0012	0.0006	0.0010	0.0004	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0264	0.0297	0.0295	0.0242	0.0363	0.0268
Nitrates (Expressed as Nitrogen)	0.75	0.60	Absent	0.70	Absent	0.50
Nitrites	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Trace	Absent
Poisonous Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Total Hardness	25.0	26.2	17.7	25.2	22.5	26.1
Microscopical Examination of deposit	None	None	None	None	None	None
Bacteriological Examination						
Coliform organisms in 100 mls	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 37°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 21°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Particulars of Population and Numbers of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:—

Parish	Acreage	Population Census 1951	Number of dwellings (Rate Books) as at 31/3/59	Number of dwellings supplied as at 31/3/59	Source of Water Supply and quantity pumped 31/3/59
Sawston	1,898	2,133	1,038	1,023	Sawston bore (Chalk water) 29,954,000 gallons per year
Balsham	4,550	662	249	239	
Bartlow	377	73	27	26	
Carlton	2,415	266	66	53	
Castle Camps	3,184	509	191	178	
Great Abington	1,588	503	188	187	
Hildersham	1,511	148	63	51	
Horseheath	1,922	328	135	121	
Linton	3,817	1,608	638	610	
Little Abington	1,309	280	108	92	
Shudy Camps	2,362	240	93	91	
Weston Colville	3,235	334	132	112	
West Wickham	2,931	327	116	109	
West Wrating	3,543	424	143	130	
Abington Pigotts	1,237	142	43	41	
Arrington	1,407	648	123	122	
Babraham	2,387	226	119	—	
Barrington	2,282	497	191	161	
Bassingbourn	3,204	2,554	634 (184)	539	
Croydon	2,734	223	77	74	
Duxford	3,239	1,469	357	100	
Fowlmere	2,272	769	181	114	
Foxton	1,752	567	222	161	
Gamlingay	4,460	1,575	568	489	
Guilden Morden	2,599	552	214	188	
Hatley	2,200	150	54	52	
Hinxton	1,564	274	101	43	
Ickleton	2,700	613	226	50	
Kneesworth	879	133	34	17	
Litlington	2,172	778	226	192	
Little Gransden	1,920	280	86	85	
Longstowe	1,544	240	67	60	
Melbourn	4,480	1,408	611	478	
Meldreth	2,513	654	313	283	
Orwell	2,083	525	211	209	
Pampisford	1,607	340	110	61	
Shepreth	1,318	438	172	131	
Shingay cum Wendy	1,791	119	50	50	
Steeple Morden	3,846	642	243	181	
Tadlow	1,743	107	35	27	
Thriplow	2,501	386	245 (110)	—	
Whaddon	1,515	196	138 (58)	130	
Wimpole	2,468	239	67	51	
Whittlesford	1,976	809	336 (31)	38	
Great Eversden	1,400	175	62	57	
Kingston	1,907	158	59	54	
Little Eversden	790	236	96	89	
Great Chishill	2,542	332	119	116	
Heydon	1,425	151	61	57	
Little Chishill	1,216	82	33	22	

Figures in brackets are included in the main figure and represent R.A.F. dwellings.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

In September a senior engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government conducted a local investigation into the Council's proposal for seweraging the village of Meldreth, a scheme estimated to cost £93,000. As is usual at such enquiries the Public Health Department submitted a factual report on the prevailing sanitary circumstances of the parish. At the time of writing the Ministry has approved the scheme subject to certain modifications and tenders are being invited. The revised estimate is in the region of £75,000.

Gamlingay sewerage scheme, Stage 1, is nearing completion and it is hoped to continue with Stage II, which includes an area of the parish somewhat outside the central village area.

To say that the outdated sewage works at Sawston are overloaded would be a major understatement. The effluent is discharged into the river in little better condition than when it arrives at the works; and continually the load is being added to. A revised scheme for the sewerage of Sawston and the construction of a new sewage works was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in December. The original Public Enquiry into the scheme was held in June 1955. The delay has been occasioned partly by the County Planning considerations, together with the engineering problems involving the treatment of complex and fairly large quantities of trade effluent.

Private drainage work is supervised by the Public Health Inspectors and new work is tested either by the application of water or smoke. A builder is required to give the local authority at least 24 hours notice before covering over drainage work, thus in a district of this area a considerable amount of travelling is involved in order to inspect all work. The Inspectors have recorded 603 visits in connection with drainage matters.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The scheme has operated comparatively smoothly throughout the year, attendant difficulties by way of the tip fires and insect infestation, together with labour changes should perhaps be considered as normal hazards. Controlled tipping is carried out as far as possible and is dependant on the availability of labour and covering material. Periodically a bulldozer is employed to assist in quelling tip fires and spreading top soil. Infestations by flies and crickets have been dealt with and it has been found necessary to alternate in the types of insecticides used to prevent fly infestations becoming resistant to the residual insecticides.

The frequency of refuse collection is fortnightly in 8 villages (44.4% of the total premises in the district) and every 4 weeks in the remaining 42 villages (55.6%). At the time of reporting the Council has approved the operation of a fortnightly collection throughout the district following requests from several parishes for increased frequency. Two vehicles are at present employed, both being of modern rear loading type 16/18 cubic yard capacity with diesel engine. When necessary a standby vehicle is brought into use particularly to cope with the collections during public holiday periods.

Collection and Disposal Statistics for Year ending 31.3.59.

Estimated number of clearances from properties	..	..	..	..	..	174,600
Number of loads	..	..	..	..	..	915
Estimated tonnage	..	..	..	..	..	3,693
Total mileage travelled	..	..	..	..	..	21,682

Cesspool Emptying Service

There have been times when calls on this service have resulted in several weeks delay in dealing with orders. Wet weather certainly increases the pressure of work and the one 800 gallon capacity tanker employing two men is kept fully occupied. A private firm is engaged to deal with work of an urgent nature in connection with Council house drainage when the Council's tanker is otherwise employed. The disposal of tanker contents is difficult especially so in a scattered district such as this, and it is not always practicable to transport it to sewage disposal works, although use is made of these where possible.

The charges remain the same as for the previous year at 35/- per first load with subsequent loads at 15/- for private premises and £2 and £1 respectively for business premises.

The following summary indicates the relation between Council and private work.

Private Work Cesspools	Loads	Council Work Cesspools	Loads	Total Mileage
447	619	232	620	12, 973

Pest Destruction

Three premises have been treated for flea infestation and in the case of other infestations by ants, cockroaches and the like, complainants are usually advised on suitable methods of destruction. Under this heading mention may be made of the systematic spraying of the Council's refuse tips and the rat destruction measures taken by a private contractor employed by the Council. Destruction of these pests at the sewage works is undertaken by a Council employee working under the direction of the Council's Engineer. The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act is not operated in full and no service is given to private householders. Such complaints as are received—and these are few—are dealt with in an advisory manner.

Night Soil Collection

No general scheme of collection exists. The Council undertake the collection in a particularly built-up area of one village.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

Several cases of food poisoning occurred in the first quarter of the year, the outbreak being associated with a similar occurrence in the Chesterton Rural District. Despite detailed investigation and sampling of foods, including milk, the origin of the outbreak remained obscure.

In the control of food poisoning and other intestinal infections, ninety-nine faecal specimens were submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory Service.

In all, the Inspectors recorded 177 visits in connection with infectious diseases and in 7 cases premises and articles were disinfected.

Requests for precautionary disinfection of articles of worn clothing, for dispatch to foreign countries are, from time to time, received and acceded to.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No systematic smoke control observations have been possible due mainly to the pressure of other duties.

One application for 'prior approval' of a furnace installation was received and approval given. Considering the Council's responsibilities laid down under the Clean Air Act on the question of prior approval of installations, it has been agreed that such applications shall be referred to the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service for their observations. N.I.F.E.S. is a non-profit making company under its own board of directors, set up in 1954, its primary object being to advise industrial, commercial and non-domestic consumers on efficient and economical uses of fuel and power thereby having as one of its objectives that of eliminating atmospheric pollution such as smoke and grit emission.

EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND CONTROL OF FOOD PREMISES

Slaughter of Animals—Meat Inspection

There are no public slaughter houses in the rural district.

The capacity at which the three privately owned slaughterhouses have been working during the year would be more than sufficient to provide for the needs of the rural district. This is exemplified by the Exchequer Grant of some £336 towards the cost of inspecting 'export meat'.

All animals slaughtered are inspected but the 100% inspection has only been possible by the effort and determination of the inspectorate which has worked long hours of overtime both in the evenings and at weekends. Recent legislation has been in no way helpful in limiting the hours of slaughtering

and there is every indication that 100% inspection cannot be maintained. The position continues whereby the Government recommend local authorities to inspect all animals slaughtered yet fail to make it a statutory obligation. It is realised that such a statutory duty would necessitate curtailment of the hours of slaughter. The Slaughterhouses Act 1958 came into force in August with its amending provisions to the Food and Drugs Act and the Slaughter of Animals Act. It also requires local authorities to submit a report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the existing and probable future requirements of their district slaughter house facilities, having regard to the needs both of persons requiring the use of such facilities which are or are likely to become available to meet these requirements, taking into consideration the effect of the Slaughter House (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations on existing slaughterhouses. Such Regulations are designed to improve the structure and operation of slaughter houses.

From the table it will be seen that 38,634 carcases have been inspected, some 7,339 carcases more than for the previous year. This has involved 814 visits to slaughterhouses.

In comparison with last year's figures the ratio of diseased carcases remains about the same.

Carcases affected with *Cysticercus bovis* were placed in cold storage for the requisite time and temperature. Unfit meat and offals of which there were 16½ tons were collected frequently from the slaughterhouses and generally dispatched to a plant in the district for conversion into animals foods and fertilizers. A small proportion of rejected offal goes for pharmaceutical purposes. Prior to removal of unfit meat it is stained with an acid green dye.

The attention of the Scottish health authority was drawn to consignments of sheep offals being dispatched into the district from Scotland, improperly protected from risk of contamination and in contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Subsequently all offals were forwarded in polythene bags.

The Public Health Laboratory Service gave their willing co-operation in the examination of bacteriological specimens.

**PARTICULARS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED AT THE THREE PRIVATELY OWNED SLAUGHTERHOUSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1958**

(The figures in brackets are the annual figures for the year 1957)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,126	87	71	4395	32955	—
Number inspected	1,126 (965)	87 (80)	71 (79)	4395 (5581)	32955 (24590)	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	20	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	179	8	—	231	2672	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.9% (13.4%)	9.2% (16.2%)	— (6.3%)	5.3% (2.6%)	8.1% (10.4%)	(—)
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	8	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	10	—	—	1385	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	4.9% (4.1%)	11.5% (8.7%)	— (1.27%)	— (—)	4.2% (3.7%)	(—)
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23 (26)	2 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	(—)	(—)
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	23	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
NUMBER OF ORGANS OR PARTS CONDEMNED—ALL DISEASES*						
Heads	48	6	—	—	1366	—
Lungs (Sets)	38	10	—	24	1940	—
Hearts	8	—	—	1	603	—
Livers (Whole or part)	185	13	—	210	604	—
Spleens	4	—	—	—	2	—
Diaphragms	4	1	—	—	1	—
Kidney	—	1	—	—	139	—
Other parts	1,139 lbs	290 lbs.	—	6 lbs.	1010 lbs.	—

*These figures do not include instances where whole carcasses and all organs were condemned.

Milk Supply

The department has continued to sample milk from dairy herds to ascertain freedom from tuberculosis and brucellosis although, unfortunately on a reduced scale due to other duties. One tuberculin tested herd was found infected with *Brucella abortus* but apart from notifying no further action was taken as the milk was being heat treated.

The 1st October next will see the district declared an Attested Area—an area in which all cattle are tuberculin tested. The Tuberculin (Attested Herds) Scheme provided *inter alia* for the slaughter of reactor cattle with payment of compensation. Doubtless the increasing tempo of tuberculosis eradication in herds in the district will further reduce risk of transmission of this disease to man.

The sampling of designated milk as supplied to schools has revealed no contravention and all 13 samples passed the prescribed tests.

The following shows the number of licences in force permitting the sale of designated milk by retailers.

Dealers Licences

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Sterilized milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

Supplementary Licences

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sterilized milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

Apart from a few producer retailers in the area the main supply of bottled milk is from dairies situated outside the district. There are no pasteurising plants in the district and the records show two premises registered as dairies and fifteen registered distributors.

Biological Examination of Milk Samples from Dairy Herds

Milk Designation	No. of Dairy Herds in District	No. of herd milk samples submitted	Myco. tuberculosis present	Brucella abortus present
Tuberculin Tested	45	21	Nil	1
Non-designated	10	5	Nil	Nil
Totals	55	26	Nil	1

Ice Cream

Of the 102 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, 38 have been visited and 31 samples of ice cream obtained. Apart from two samples, which were not of first class hygienic standard, the remainder failed to reduce methylene blue in the requisite time and were of Grade 1 standard. There is no statutory test for the hygienic quality of ice cream and this provisional test is best judged on the basis of a series of sample results. However, from previous records and from the fact that the majority of the ice cream is pre-wrapped there is little likelihood of inherent contamination. Storage at retailers premises is in all cases by means of electric conservators which on temperature testing were found to be within the required temperature limits although the temperature at which the product was stored varied considerably from retailer to retailer. No contravention of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations was found.

There are no manufacturers in the district.

Food Shops, Cafes, Factory Canteens and Food Conveying Vehicles

Caterers and the general food industry have long known that cleanliness is of prime importance in their trade but during recent years it has become more fully understood why cleanliness is important. Most people today know that food which looks clean and does not smell or taste bad may nevertheless be dangerous due to bacterial contamination and the public health inspectors are continually advising on the need for acquiring and maintaining a high standard of cleanliness. The greatest single factor in achieving this aim is the mental attitude of those who handle food. With training good habits become automatic, but on the other hand well designed premises encourage clean habits.

One hundred and twenty-nine inspections of retail food shops have been made and works of a structural or operational improvement have been effected at 18 premises mostly resulting from the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Restaurant Kitchens and Canteens

Apart from a few factory canteens catering for in excess of 100 employees the other catering establishments are small in character. Under this heading 43 visits are recorded and 15 premises have completed various improvements, which as a matter of interest have been listed below :—

Adequate sink facilities provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Adequate washhand facilities provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Clothes lockers provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Increased facilities for crockery storage ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Premises where food preparation tables have been resurfaced ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Premises where draining boards have been provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Premises redecorated ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Premises where hot/cold water supplies have been extended ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Premises disinfected ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premises where hand washing notices have been provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Premises where miscellaneous improvements have been effected ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

Bakehouses

One new bakehouse has been established making the total number in the district 14. Forty-three inspections have been recorded and works of improvement carried out at 9 premises.

It was necessary to take proceedings under the Food Hygiene Regulations against a firm for having dirty and mice infested premises, and for failure to prevent risk of contamination of food. They were found guilty and fined a total of £15.

Public Houses

The majority of the 139 public houses in the district has reasonable sanitary provisions. Forty-three inspections have been made and improvements to 9 premises completed, mainly in connection with sanitary accommodation and glass washing facilities. It is fitting that the brewers are not seeking relicensing of premises which, for economic reasons, cannot be brought up to the required public health standard, thus over the last 4 years the total number of public houses has been reduced by 20 premises.

Registered Premises (Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

This section requires the registration of premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice cream, sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food. In this connection the following premises are registered.

Fish Frying ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Sale of Ice Cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Sausages and other preserved foods ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

A newly converted premises for use as a Fish and Chip shop was registered. These premises replaced an existing one of poor design.

Food Conveying Vehicles

The main aspect warranting attention has been that of requiring adequate hand washing facilities and attention to the need for occupiers name and address to be conspicuously displayed on the vehicle. Eighteen inspections were made and several vendors were advised of the statutory requirements.

Unfit Food

Normally food stocks are not inspected except on receipt of complaints or in connection with food poisoning outbreaks. Samples of various articles including potatoes, canned foods and soft drinks have been submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. It was not necessary formally to seize any foods for condemnation, and the following were surrendered and destroyed after being declared unfit.

Potatoes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 cwt.
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29 lbs.
Lamb	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62 lbs.
Assorted Canned Foods				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58 lbs.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1948

Only one third of the total factories have been visited which was unfortunate but unavoidable. Few contraventions under the Act were found but the more serious were those relating to means of escape in case of fire. Two new factories have been issued with fire escape certificates and a further four existing factories have been requested to carry out structural works in this connexion. The department collaborates with the Cambridgeshire Fire Brigade and their advice is appreciated.

No applications for certificates of wholesomeness of water supply under Section 41 have been received and the certificates remaining in force number 14.

The list of outworkers now number 55. All are engaged in making wearing apparel. No contraventions of the Act have been found but the Council dealt with the question of noise arising from an outworkers equipment in a Council house.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	28	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	7	2	—	—
Total	90	30	5	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	5	—	1	—
Total	10	10	—	2	—

Knackers Yards

One factory is licensed under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 as a Knackers Yard, and such work in that connexion is ancillary to that of fat melting, bone boiling and other processes for conversion of animal waste into fertilizers and animal feeding stuffs. There is a need for this type of manufactory situated in a rural district to be given the statutory control which it would acquire as an 'offensive trade' if it were situated in an urban area.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

Twenty-one persons hold current licences to slaughter animals and in three cases the licences also provide for horse slaughtering. The types of slaughtering instruments permitted in the licences are, captive bolt gun, electro-lethaler and in a few cases a free bullet gun.

No contraventions of the Act have been found.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

One retail shop sells pet animals and on inspection the terms of the licence were found to be adhered to.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The model code of principals of construction and licensing conditions for distributing depots was received from the Home Office. Where applicable this has been implemented. Twelve new petroleum storage installations have been air tested and in all thirty three inspections of storage facilities have been made. Apart from drawing attention to minor points of maintenance no contraventions have been reported.

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